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EXCISE

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MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12065: RDS-4 6/24/01 (LEWIS, SAMUEL W.) OR-M
TAGS: IS, PGOV, PINT
SUBJECT: MOSSAD CONCERNED ABOUT GOI INTELLIGENCE LEAKS
REF: TEL AVIV 09921

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN A TOTALLY UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, THE HEAD OF THE MOSSAD, ISRAEL'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, INITIATED A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW LAST WEEK IN AN APPARENTLY ALMOST DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STEM THE FLOOD OF INTELLIGENCE AND RELATED DATA BEING LEAKED ANNOUNCED AND PUBLISHED ON THE IRAQI REACTOR RAID. "I CALL FOR AN END TO THE WITCHES' DANCE OF PUBLICATIONS AND COUNTER-PUBLICATIONS DISCLOSING DETAILS OF THE OPERATION FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IRAQI REACTOR AND WHAT PRECEDED IT," HE TOLD

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HA'ARETZ' RESPECTED MILITARY CORRESPONDENT ZE'EV SCHIFF. "THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IRAQI REACTOR AND THESE PUBLICATIONS MAY CAUSE THE GREATEST DAMAGE FROM THE INTELLIGENCE POINT OF VIEW." IN RESPONSE TO SCHIFF'S QUESTIONS, THE HEAD OF THE MOSSAD WHO IS NEVER PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED BY NAME IN ISRAEL WENT ON TO SAY THAT "DAMAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN CAUSED IN THE INTELLIGENCE SPHERE. SOURCES HAVE BEEN ENDANGERED AND THERE ARE RISKS CONNECTED WITH THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH US."

3. THE DAY AFTER THE INTERVIEW WITH SCHIFF APPEARED, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN CALLED IN THE HEAD OF THE MOSSAD AND REPORTEDLY "REPRIMANDED" HIM FOR GOING PUBLIC. THE TERM "REPRIMAND" WAS LATER WITHDRAWN AND IT WAS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SAID THAT BEGIN HAD MERELY CALLED (THE MOSSAD DIRECTOR'S ATTENTION TO" THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF HIS ACTION. ON JUNE 21 ISRAEL RADIO REPORTED THAT THE HEAD OF THE MOSSAD HAD TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT IT WAS NOT HE (THE PRIME MINISTER) THAT HE HAD REFERRED TO BUT RATHER A "SENIOR MINISTER WHO LEAKED DETAILS AND INTELLIGENCE ON THE IRAQ OPERATION" TO A JOURNALIST.

[redacted] B-1

4. COMMENT

[redacted] B-1

END COMMENT.

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